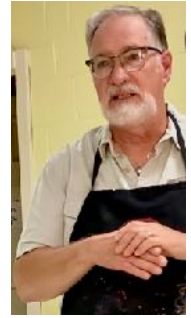


Demonstration September 13, 2021 Don Reed - "How to Get Texture with a Palette Knife"



The 2021-2022 season of the Euclid Art Association officially started with an 'in-person' meeting in the Fellowship Hall of East Shore United Methodist Church, the first since March 2020. We featured artist **Don Reed**, who presented his 'World Premiere' demonstration to a crowd of close to 30 members and guests. It was the first time ever that Reed demonstrated his technique, dubbed "contemporary impressionism in oil".

Using a landscape photo reference, Don delivered on the promise to "show you the way that I work" by painting, on a canvas positioned upside down, with the palette knife left to him by his stepfather. Why use a palette knife, we asked? Besides being able to get more paint, texture and spontaneity in his oil paintings, the knife just wipes clean... "It's much easier to clean!", he quipped. He continued to put in layers of colors, in what he called "the total mess stage" of his painting. Tip: he sets up his palette the same way every time. It saves time hunting for colors. Why wear rubber gloves to paint? Ummm...don't really know, but maybe to keep his hands clean! And then we asked, why turn the canvas upside down? Because it disassociates you from the details. "How much detail do I need before somebody knows what they're looking at? I try to paint where I leave it to you, the viewer, to figure it out," he said. "I don't paint things anymore...I paint blocks of color that become things." In looking at some of the samples of his artwork that he brought to share with us, what seemed clear at a distance, we could see only strokes of color and texture when looking at close range.



Don started painting at the age of twelve in a fishing shack in Maine. He started in watercolor, moved to acrylics and gradually into oil, which he uses exclusively now. He learned to paint in oil from a local artist on beautiful Monhegan Island, painting plein air. He was in the sign business for 20 years as a graphic designer, creating many of the large signs in Las Vegas. Don was also the president of the Manchester Art Association in New Hampshire. He has won many awards in the New England area and is a member of American Impressionists Society and National Oils and Acrylics Society. Don and his wife, Susan, moved from the picturesque state of Maine to the Cleveland area in 2017 to be near their grandchildren. One requirement for him to move was a nice studio space, which he got! His studio has a Paintmaster easel that moves his canvas up or down and left to right with a gentle push of your finger! Great lighting and a computer screen rounds out his space. His wife even gave him a watch that says "Go to your studio and make stuff."

"I ask myself why was I born into this time, this life. How lucky am I?" And, how lucky were we, the Euclid Art Association to have Don share the way he paints with all of us! **Thank you, Don** for your excellent, humorous and informative demonstration of this unique way to paint in oil.



Thank you also to our evening hosts, **Sandi Richards and Ellen Howard**, for providing us with refreshments after the meeting. It was nice to reconnect with everyone while we enjoyed eating 'one of everything'....a chicken salad slider, a cup of veggies, brownies, cookies and candies.

